

## **STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN KIRKLEES COUNCIL AND HIGHWAYS ENGLAND**

This statement formalises the common ground established between Kirklees Council and Highways England on matters relating to the soundness of the policies and allocations proposed within the Kirklees Publication Draft Local Plan Strategy and Policies (SD1) and Allocations and Designations (SD2) documents.

This statement concludes the extensive engagement and co-operation that has taken place between Kirklees and Highways England throughout the Local Plan preparation process.

### **BACKGROUND**

Highways England's representation to the Publication Draft Local Plan (dated 17th December 2016) identified the aspects of the plan that Highways England considered were unsound. The representation also identified the allocations that Highways England considered would impact the Strategic Road Network (SRN), and in turn those allocations for which contributions may need to be sought towards additional mitigation measures. Further to this representation Kirklees Council sought to clarify the soundness issues raised and the rationale for citing impacts upon the SRN as a site specific consideration for certain allocations.

In exploring this issue further and re-visiting the Network Analysis Tool (NAT) inputs that informed Highways England's representation, it became apparent that Highways England's comments were based on earlier site capacity assumptions rather than the 'actual' allocation indicative capacities within the Publication Draft Allocations and Designations document.

On account of this Highways England's position with respect to Chapters 2, 4, 5 and 13 of the Publication Draft Allocations and Designations document changed, as did the modifications that Highways England considered necessary to make the Publication Draft Allocations and Designations document sound.

Further to receiving assurances from Kirklees Council that Publication Draft Policy PLP 4 will enable the Council to seek contributions towards additional mitigation measures from applications upon allocations that do not in themselves generate a significant impact upon the SRN (but that may contribute towards cumulative impact), and that SRN infrastructure falls under the definition of 'essential infrastructure', Highways England and Kirklees Council have established common ground with respect to said matters.

### **COMMON GROUND**

**Kirklees Council and Highways England agree that the Kirklees Publication Draft Local Plan - Strategy and Policies document (SD1) is sound taking account of the modifications proposed to SD1 (specifically SP -MM18 to MM21 within SD4 (List of Additional Modifications to the Publication Local Plan). SD 4 proposes the following minor modifications (in brackets) in response to Highways England's comments on Paragraphs 10.38 (MM18), 10.41 (MM19), 10.42 (MM20) and 10.43 (MM21) of the Strategy and Policies document (SD1).**

In response to Highways England's letter (dated 12th April 2017 – within BP28) SD4 also proposes the deletion of the 'other site specific considerations' within the Kirklees Publication Draft Local Plan - Allocations and Designations (SD2) that relate to the strategic road network within Chapters 2, 4, 5 and 13 of the Publication Draft Allocations and Designations document, except in relation to

allocations **H69, H559, H1747, H2089, E1831, E1832c, MX1905 and MX1930** for which the following revised wording applies:

*'Additional mitigation on the wider highway network will be required. Development of this site has the potential for a significant impact on the Strategic Road Network. Measures will be required to reduce and mitigate that impact. The transport assessment will need to demonstrate that any committed schemes are sufficient to deal with the additional demand generated by the site. Where committed schemes will not provide sufficient capacity or where Highways England does not have committed investment, development may need to contribute to additional schemes identified by Highways England and included in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) or other appropriate schemes. If development is dependent upon construction of a committed scheme, then development will need to be phased to take place following scheme opening'*

**Accordingly, Kirklees Council and Highways England agree that the Kirklees Publication Draft Local Plan - Allocations and Designations document (SD2) is sound taking account of the modifications proposed to SD2 (specifically AD - MM 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 48, 50, 53, 58 and 61 within SD4 (List of Additional Modifications to the Publication Local Plan).**

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